

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 5, 8-10, 13-15, 18, 19, 21-23, 26, and 27. The Examiner, however, allowed claim 28 and objected to claims 3, 4, 6, 7, 11, 12, 16, 17, 20, 24, and 25 for depending from a rejected base claim, but indicated that each of these claims also contains allowable subject matter. Applicant thanks the Examiner for the recognition of allowable subject matter in the present claims.

While Applicant does not necessarily agree with the rejection set forth in the Office Action, Applicant has chosen to amend certain claims to expedite allowance of the present application. Particularly, Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 9, 14, and 22 to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claims 4, 11, 16, and 25, respectively. Additionally, Applicant amended claims 3, 7, 12, 19, 24, and 26 in view of the amendments to independent claims 1, 9, 14, and 22, and canceled claims 4, 10, 11, 16, 17, 20, and 25 without prejudice. Upon entry of the amendments, claims 1-3, 5-9, 12-15, 18, 19, 21-24, and 26-28 will remain pending in the present patent application and are believed to be in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the outstanding rejection and allowance of all pending claims.

General Authorization for Extensions of Time and Payment of Fees

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.136, Applicant hereby provides a general authorization to treat this and any future reply requiring an extension of time as incorporating a request thereof. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required to Deposit Account No. 06-1315; Order No. MICS:0214/FLE (01-0596).

Conclusion

In view of the remarks and amendments set forth above, Applicant respectfully requests allowance of the pending claims. If the Examiner believes that a telephonic interview will help speed this application toward issuance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: October 1, 2007

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